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DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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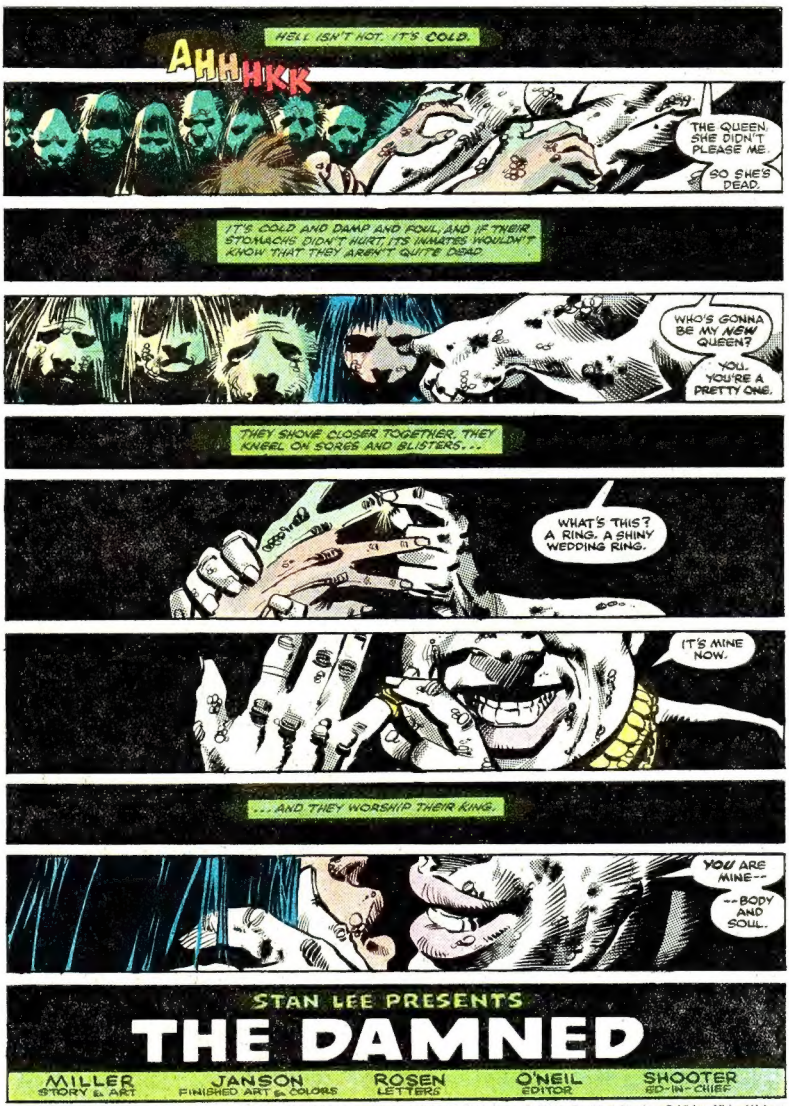

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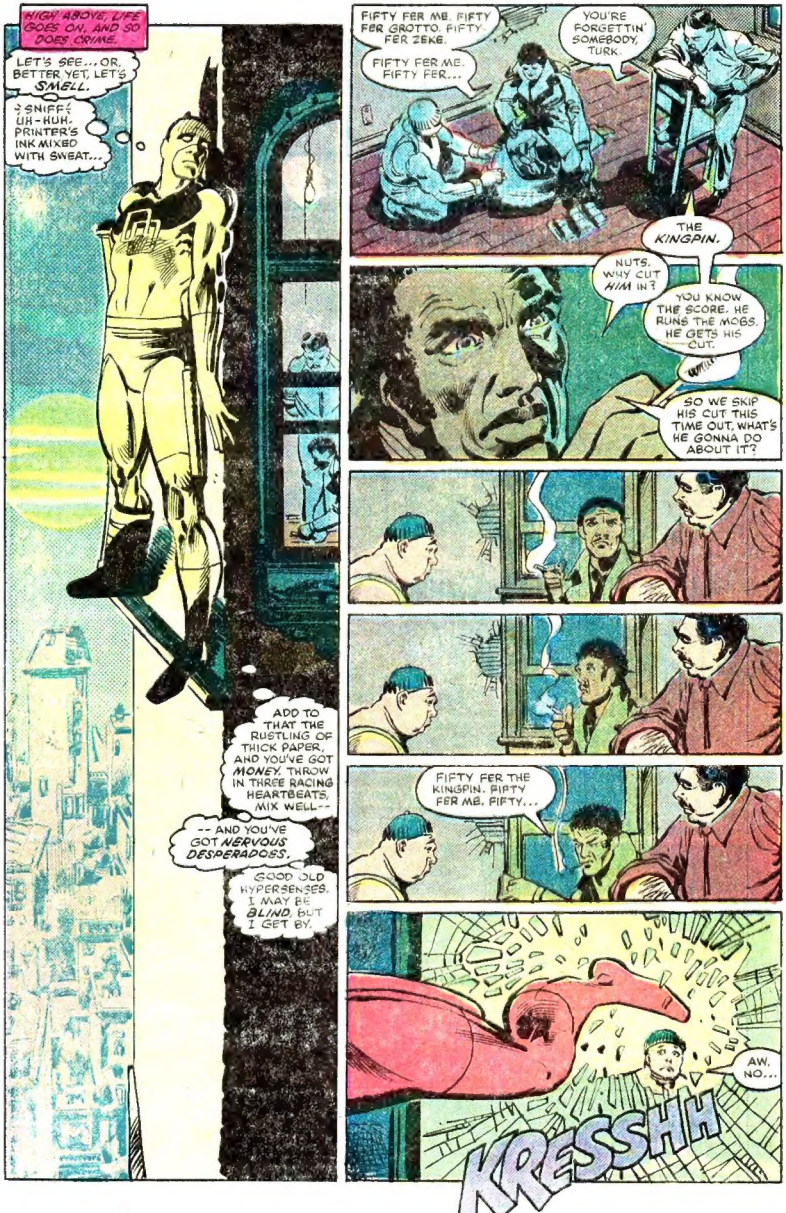
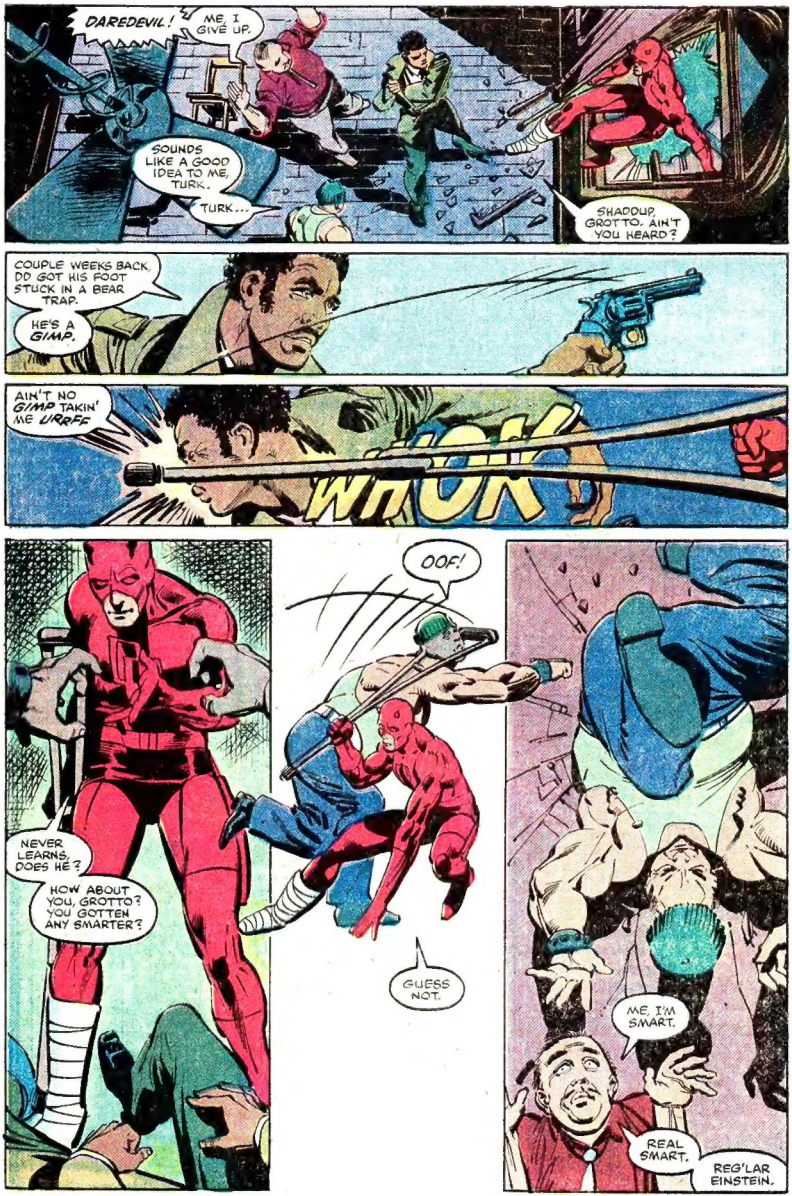
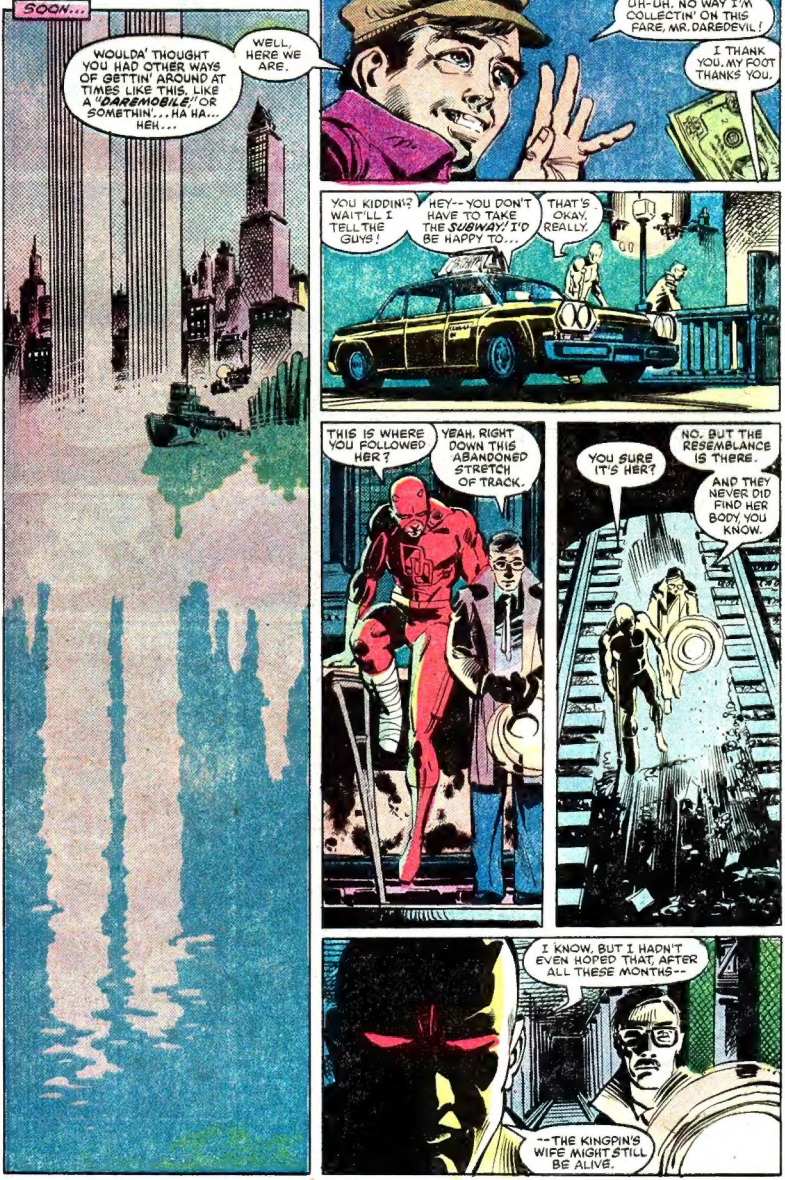
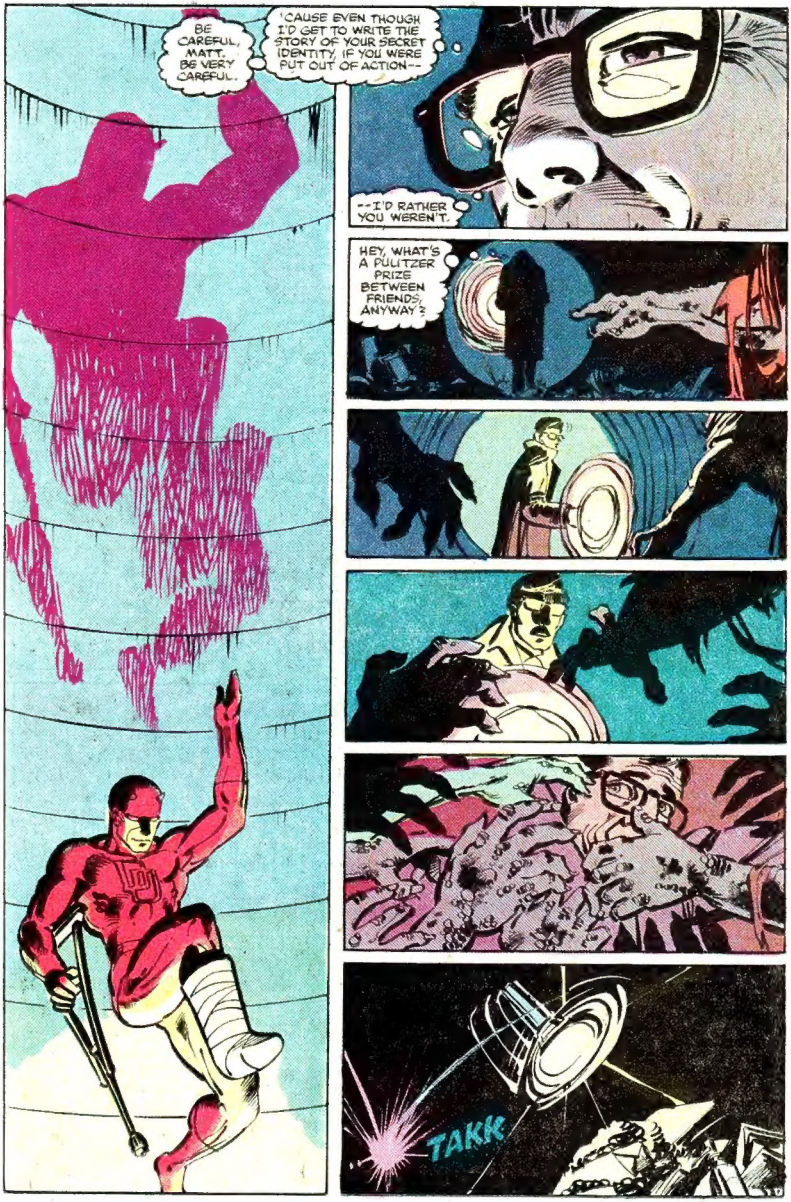

HIGH ABOVE, LIFE GOES ON, AND SO DOES CRIME.
LET'S SEE... OR, BETTER YET, LET'S SMELL.
SNIFF! UH-HUH. PRINTER'S INK MIXED WITH SWEAT...
ADD TO THAT THE RUSTLING OF THICK PAPER, AND YOU'VE GOT MONEY. THROW IN THREE RACING HEARTBEATS, MIX WELL--
-- AND YOU'VE GOT NERVOUS DESPERADOES.
GOOD OLD HYPERSENSES. I MAY BE BLIND, BUT I GET BY.
FIFTY FER ME. FIFTY FER GROTTO. FIFTY FER ZEKE.
FIFTY FER ME. FIFTY FER...
YOU'RE FORGETTIN' SOMEBODY, TURK.
THE KINGPIN.
NUTS. WHY CUT HIM IN?
YOU KNOW THE SCORE. HE RUNS THE MOBS. HE GETS HIS CUT.
SO WE SKIP HIS CUT THIS TIME OUT. WHAT'S HE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
FIFTY FER THE KINGPIN. FIFTY FER ME. FIFTY...
AW, NO...
KRESSHH


DAREDEVIL!
ME, I GIVE UP.
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME, TURK.
TURK...
SHADDUP, GROTTO. AIN'T YOU HEARD?
COUPLE WEEKS BACK, DD GOT HIS FOOT STUCK IN A BEAR TRAP.
HE'S A GIMP.
AIN'T NO GIMP TAKIN' ME URRFF.
WHOK
OOF!
NEVER LEARNS, DOES HE?
HOW ABOUT YOU, GROTTO? YOU GOTTEN ANY SMARTER?
GUESS NOT.
ME, I'M SMART.
REAL SMART.
REG'LAR EINSTEIN.

LATER...
...THEN THAT LADY ASSASSIN BEAT UP DAREDEVIL ... THEN SHE WENT AFTER YOU? WOW!
MUST'VE BEEN EXCITING!
SORRY IS WHAT IT WAS, KID. THOUGHT I WAS DEAD.
I SPENT TWO WEEKS BREATHING THROUGH A TUBE AND THINKING ABOUT HOW STUPID IT WAS FOR A SECOND-RATE REPORTER TO PLAY HERO.
YOU MEAN...?
YEAH. SOON AS I GOT BACK TO THE OFFICE, I TOOK THAT ASSASSIN'S ADVICE AND SPIKED THE CHERRYH STORY.
BUT--IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE REAL IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT, MR. URICH? IF CHERRYH WINS THE ELECTION...
...NEW YORK WILL HAVE A GANGSTER FOR A MAYOR,
TOUGH. IT'S NOT MY FIGHT, NOT AFTER WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH.
THEN WHY DEVELOP THE PICTURES?
I'LL SELL THEM TO JAMESON FOR INVENTORY. I CAN USE THE BUCKS.
NICE SHOT OF THE KINGPIN HERE, AND CHERRYH.
WHO'S THIS?
JUST A BAG LADY WHO SEEMED TO HAVE A THING FOR THE KINGPIN. MIGHT AS WELL TOSS...
WAIT A SECOND. THAT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE...NAW, IT COULDN'T BE...
KID, RUN DOWN THE HALL AND GET ME MY KINGPIN FILE. NOW.


SOON...
WOULDA' THOUGHT YOU HAD OTHER WAYS OF GETTIN' AROUND AT TIMES LIKE THIS. LIKE A "DAREMOBILE" OR SOMETHIN'... HA HA... HEH...
WELL, HERE WE ARE.
UH-UH. NO WAY I'M COLLECTIN' ON THIS FARE, MR. DAREDEVIL!
I THANK YOU. MY FOOT THANKS YOU.
YOU KIDDIN'? WAIT'LL I TELL THE GUYS!
HEY-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THE SUBWAY! I'D BE HAPPY TO...
THAT'S OKAY. REALLY.
THIS IS WHERE YOU FOLLOWED HER?
YEAH. RIGHT DOWN THIS ABANDONED STRETCH OF TRACK.
YOU SURE IT'S HER?
NO. BUT THE RESEMBLANCE IS THERE.
AND THEY NEVER DID FIND HER BODY, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW, BUT I HADN'T EVEN HOPED THAT, AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS--
--THE KINGPIN'S WIFE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE.

FOR YEARS, HIS LOVE FOR VANESSA WAS ALL THAT HELD THE KINGPIN BACK. BUT THEN THAT BUILDING COLLAPSED AROUND HER--
--AND HE'S BEEN UPPING THE CRIME RATE EVER SINCE.
HMM. THAT PIPE LOOKS PROMISING.
YOU THINK IF WE FIND HER THE KINGPIN WILL GO STRAIGHT?
NO. BUT THAT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER.
SHE WAS THE INNOCENT VICTIM OF A DEADLY POWER STRUGGLE. I HAVE TO FIND HER.
AND THERE'S ANOTHER REASON. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO...
SHHH!
I WASN'T SAYING ANYTH...
MOVEMENT-- AROUND THIS PIPE.
WE'RE BEING WATCHED.
LOTS OF RATS, DOWN THIS DEEP...
RATS DON'T HAVE HUMAN HEARTBEATS, BEN.
OKAY, OKAY.
HEY, LOOK AT TH... CHECK THIS OUT, MATT. PIPE GOES STRAIGHT DOWN, MAYBE A HUNDRED FEET, AND IT'S LIT.
WARM, TOO.
REALLY? FEELS COLD TO ME.
I'M GOING DOWN THERE.
YOU'RE GOING HOME.

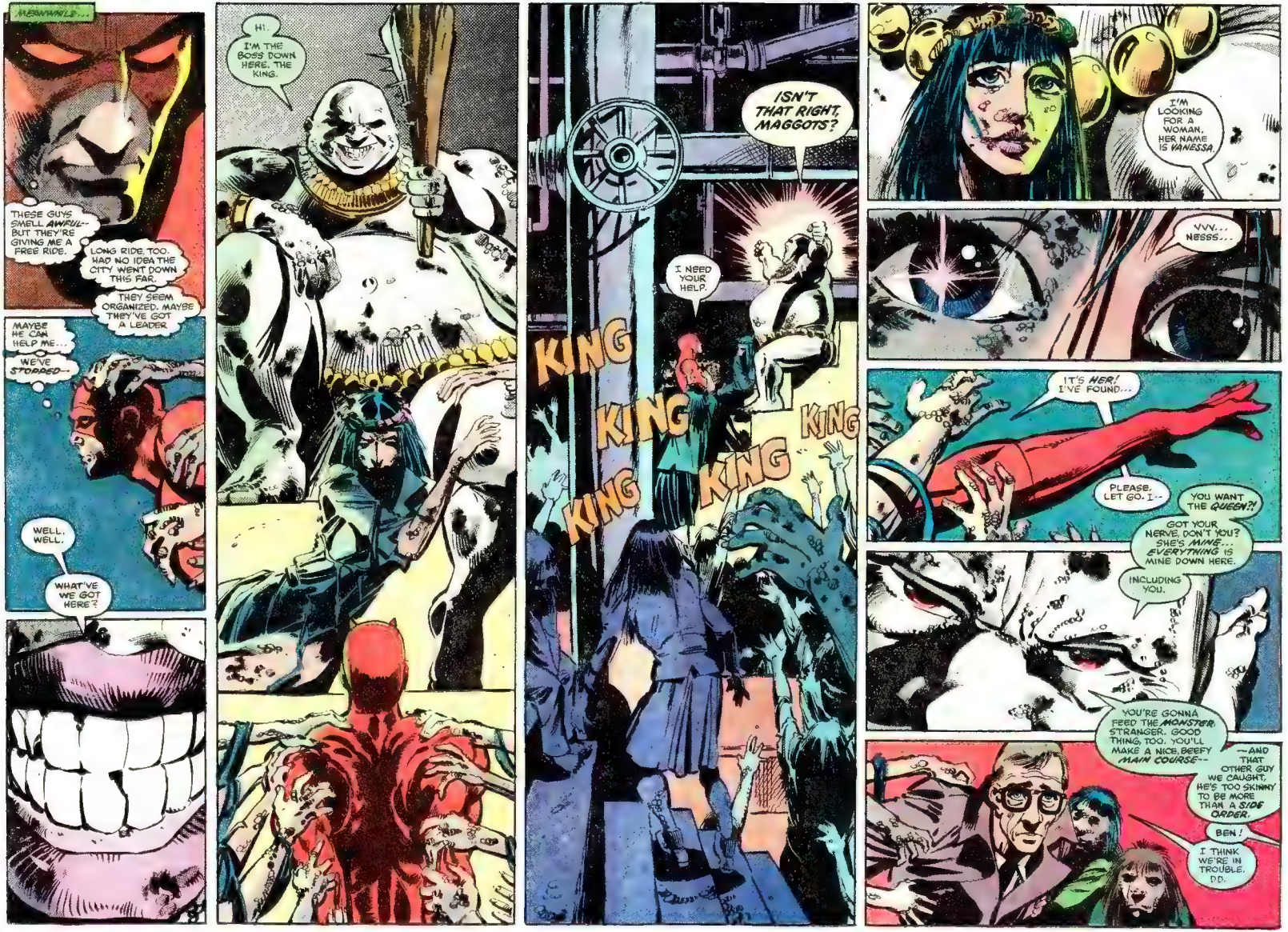

BE CAREFUL, MATT. BE VERY CAREFUL.
'CAUSE EVEN THOUGH I'D GET TO WRITE THE STORY OF YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, IF YOU WERE PUT OUT OF ACTION--
--I'D RATHER YOU WEREN'T.
HEY, WHAT'S A PULITZER PRIZE BETWEEN FRIENDS, ANYWAY?
TAKK

IN THE MIDTOWN OFFICES OF NELSON AND MURDOCK...
...WE CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE THE CHARGES MADE, IN RECENT EDITIONS OF OUR NEWSPAPER, AGAINST RANDOLPH WINSTON CHERRYH,
WITH THESE WORDS, J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLISHER OF THE NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE, TODAY RETRACTED HIS CLAIMS THAT COUNCILMAN CHERRYH'S CAMPAIGN WAS SPONSORED BY ORGANIZED CRIME.
WITH FIVE PERCENT OF THE ELECTION RETURNS IN, CHERRYH IS NOW LEADING IN EVERY DISTRICT...
THEN-- I GUESS IT'S ALL OVER.
I'M SORRY, FOGGY. YOU AND MATT YOU WORKED SO HARD AT DEFENDING THE BUGLE...
SURE WE DID. AND WE MIGHT HAVE WON IT, BECKY. WE'RE GOOD LAWYERS-- THE BEST--
-- BUT YOU CAN'T DEFEND A CLIENT WHO FOLDS ON YOU.
THING IS, THERE'S MORE AT STAKE THAN THE REPUTATION OF NELSON AND MURDOCK. IF THE PEOPLE ELECT CHERRYH TONIGHT, THEY'LL BE HANDING THIS TOWN TO THE MOBS. AND THEY WON'T EVEN KNOW IT.
WHERE IS MATT, ANYWAY?
I DON'T KNOW. I TRIED HIM AT HOME.
FUNNY HOW HE DOES THAT. JUST UPS AND DISAPPEARS, FOR DAYS AT A TIME.
SOMETIMES I WONDER...

FAR BELOW...
GONE!
IT'S GONE!
IT'S GONE!
IT'S JUST GONE-- JUST LIKE THAT!
IT'S GONE!...
WHAT-- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CAN'T YOU SEE? YOU BLIND?
MY LEG-- THE MONSTER BIT IT OFF AND ATE IT!
AND NOW IT'S GONE...
HA HA HA HA HA

HE'S NOT LIKE THEM, HE DOESN'T BELONG HERE
HE'S STRONG. HE'S ALONE. AND HE ISN'T SCARED.
DOESN'T FIGHT EITHER. JUST FOLDS UP AND LETS THEM HAVE HIM
MAYBE HE DOES BELONG HERE, AFTER ALL. MAYBE HE'S JUST AS LOST AND HOPELESS AND CRAZY AS THEY ARE...
ONLY A CRAZY MAN WOULD WANT TO GO TO HELL.

A MIDTOWN SKYSCRAPER...
I HAVEN'T LOST YET. I HAVEN'T LOST YET! AND I WON'T CONCEDE UNTIL I HAVE!
IT WAS A STUNNED, ASTONISHED MAYOR WHO REFUSED TO CONCEDE TONIGHT'S ELECTION--
--DESPITE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR RANDOLPH WINSTON CHERRYH.
BUT IT IS A VICTORY THAT IS OVERSHADOWED BY LINGERING DOUBTS AMONG EXPERTS, WHO FEAR THAT CHERRYH WILL NOT SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE.
INDEED.
IT IS I WHO HE SHALL SERVE.
BY NIGHT'S END, I WILL NOT ONLY BE KINGPIN OF THE CITY'S UNDERWORLD--
--BUT ITS GOVERNMENT, AS WELL.
NOR WILL YOUR CONTRIBUTION BE IGNORED, ELEKTRA. AS MY CHIEF ASSASSIN, YOU WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN PRESSING THE BUGLE TO ABANDON ITS CRUSADE.
I SHALL RETAIN YOUR SERVICES.


MEANWHILE...
THESE GUYS SMELL AWFUL--BUT THEY'RE GIVING ME A FREE RIDE.
LONG RIDE, TOO. HAD NO IDEA THE CITY WENT DOWN THIS FAR.
THEY SEEM ORGANIZED. MAYBE THEY'VE GOT A LEADER.
MAYBE HE CAN HELP ME...
WE'VE STORMED--
WELL, WELL.
WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE?
HI. I'M THE BOSS DOWN HERE. THE KING.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MAGGOTS?
I NEED YOUR HELP.
KING
KING
KING
KING
KING
I'M LOOKING FOR A WOMAN. HER NAME IS VANESSA.
VVV... NESSS...
IT'S HER! I'VE FOUND...
PLEASE, LET GO. I--
YOU WANT THE QUEEN?!
GOT YOUR NERVE, DON'T YOU? SHE'S MINE... EVERYTHING IS MINE DOWN HERE.
INCLUDING YOU.
YOU'RE GONNA FEED THE MONSTER, STRANGER. GOOD THING, TOO. YOU'LL MAKE A NICE, BEEFY MAIN COURSE--
--AND THAT OTHER GUY WE CAUGHT, HE'S TOO SKINNY TO BE MORE THAN A SIDE ORDER.
BEN!
I THINK WE'RE IN TROUBLE. DD.

SOON...
BEEN A WHILE SINCE HE ATE LAST. BET HE'S REAL HUNGRY.
HE WAS JUST A BABY WHEN I FOUND HIM--JUST A *PET* THAT SOMEBODY *UP THERE* FLUSHED DOWN THEIR TOILET. SO I FED HIM, AND HE GOT BIG.

MIGHT AS WELL START HIM OFF WITH A LITTLE APPETIZER.
NO--!
THAT SMELL...
BLOOD.

KOFF KOFF
MATT--!

THWAKK
KLUDD

SWAKK
CHOK
FAP!
WHUKK
NNNGG
CHAK
CHOK

KING,
KING
KING
KING
KING
KING
KIN

A MIDTOWN SKYSCRAPER...
...AND LET ME ASSURE THE GOOD--THE GREAT--PEOPLE OF NEW YORK I WILL DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE WITH PASSION--
--THAT TOGETHER, WE WILL MAKE NEW YORK CITY THE SPEARHEAD OF THIS ERA OF NATIONAL RENEWAL!
WITH THAT, RANDOLPH WINSTON CHERRYH ACCEPTED THE MANDATE OF THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK CITY--
--AND ENJOYED THE GREATEST LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN THE CITY'S HISTORY!
TAKK
VANESSA.
SHE'S ALIVE. I HAVE HER.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
CHERRYH.

THREE HOURS LATER...
IT IS WITH PROFOUND REGRET... SHAME... THAT I MUST NOW... MUST WITHDRAW FROM... NOT... NOT ACCEPT THE OFFICE OF MAYOR...
THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST ME... THEY'RE TRUE, ALL OF THEM... MY CONSCIENCE... IT WOULDN'T LET ME... I'M SORRY...
YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST, FOLKS! RANDOLPH CHERRYH HAS GIVEN UP THE OFFICE OF MAYOR!
MORE ON THIS AS IT DEVELOPS...
CHERRYH FOLLOWED ORDERS TO THE END.
I CANNOT ALLOW THIS SERIOUS A DEFEAT TO PASS WITHOUT SOME GESTURE OF RETRIBUTION, HOWEVER SMALL.
SOMEONE MUST DIE.
IT CANNOT BE JAMESON. TOO MUCH DANGER OF A PUBLIC BACKLASH.
NOR CAN IT BE THE LAWYER MURDOCK. DAREDEVIL HAS DEFENDED HIM, SEVERAL TIMES, AND IT IS MY WISH TO AVOID SO COSTLY A CONFLICT,
BUT MURDOCK HAS A PARTNER-- AN UNIMPORTANT MAN, WHO FEW WILL MISS, AND NONE WILL DEFEND.
YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT, ELEKTRA.
YOU SHALL ELIMINATE FRANKLIN NELSON.
NEXT ISSUE: LAST HAND

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Frank & Klaus,

At several points in DAREDEVIL#177 (such as page 2, panels 3&4, and page 3, panes 2&3) Matt Murdock is shown firing arrows with one of the three feathers pointing in towards the bow. Anyone who knows anything about archery will tell you that you should always notch the arrow so that the odd feather points *out* away from the bow. Otherwise, the feather would break off as the arrow slides past the bow.

Other than this the story was perfect.

Wayne Hepner
402 Kissel Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10301

Dear Frank & Klaus,

DAREDEVIL #177 was yet another visual masterpiece, though not quite as "offbeat" a storyline as its cover promised. This is not the first time that Daredevil has confronted his own personal demons and overcome them. Nor would I surmise that he has vanquished them entirely. (Do we ever really completely exorcise our inner devils? Or, do we merely lay them to rest for the moment, garnering our strength to face them when they raise their horned heads, as inevitably they will, again and again?)

Still, the story was saved from being simply a rehash of DD's battles with his own darker side by your careful balancing of other current, intriguing plot threads: Heather's ambivalence regarding her relationship with Matt, the tie-in to the Kingpin's plans for domination with the law offices of Nelson and Murdock, not to mention an insight into a more serious, heretofore unrevealed side of J. Jonah Jameson. (Since when has Jameson ever cared about publishing only the facts? Or is he finally learning something about responsible journalism?)

And Elektra. Re-surfacing in those last few panels, she continues to be shrouded in mystery — as are your and the Kingpin's plans for her — leaving the reader hungering for more. Although I'm dying to see more of her, a good deal of her strength as a character stems from your slow and tantalizing presentation of her, giving your readers just enough fodder for speculation without satisfying our appetite. You've made Elektra one of Marvel's most fascinating characters — and I'd hate to see her become whitewashed and bland through over-exposure. Well, I suppose I shouldn't have any worries on that score — your track record speaks highly for you, indeed.

Another 30 days to wait. On tenderhooks. Thanks, guys!

Diana Schutz
524 Lakeshore Road
Beaconsfield, Quebec
CANADA H9W 4J7

Dear Frank & Klaus,

Although I have been reading DAREDEVIL for several years, I have never written a letter, mainly because nothing ever disturbed me enough to make me do so. That is, until now.

I'm talking about Peter Ivanick's letter to Frank Miller, which appeared in the lettercol of issue 177. After rereading the last ten issues of DAREDEVIL, and carefully considering the letter in question, I can now agree with Mr. Ivanick that Frank Miller is guilty of the most heinous of crimes: Mr. Miller has taken Daredevil, the personification of an ideal, and has rendered him human.

Human beings are curious creatures, sometimes subject to periods of self-doubt. I wonder whether any human being could nearly be killed by someone such as Bullseye and then not be tempted to take the easy way out and let him die. The important thing is that Daredevil rose above his temptation and self-doubt and , in fact, did adhere to his principles. This ability to rise above his hatred and do the right thing is what makes Deardevil a hero, more than any brawl or feat of derring-do. But Mr. Ivanick misses this point, and instead accuses DD of being a cruel and sadistic bully with no sense of responsibility to the populace he protects. I wish Mr. Ivanick would read page 28 of issue 172. Then and there, Daredevil overcomes his desire to trash the Kingpin and his men, and instead delivers both the files and Bullseye to the authorities. Why? Because it satisfied his bloodlust and ego to do so? Certainly not. Because it best served the people? You bet.

As far as I can see, Daredevil is no less just or idealistic than he has ever been. True, he's more intense these days and not as flip as he used to be, but then I imagine it's difficult to be good humored when people are trying to kill you all the time. Most people would have changed their line of work years ago, but Daredevil is the Man Without Fear. I, for one, am glad that Daredevil is not only fearless enough to duke it out with the forces of evil, but courageous enough to face his own humanity and come out a better person for having done it. And I hope that we, the readers, can follow the example.

Dan Clayton Shoemaker
Menlo Park, CA

Dear Frank & Klaus,

In recent years many Marvel writers have indulged themselves in multi-issue sagas, using the same characters, leading up to the one, final conclusion with the epic battle between hero and villain. These types of stories are riddled with flaws, the most serious of which are poor editing and the waiting of months (in some cases over a year) for the battle, in which you already know the outcome. Recently, DAREDEVIL took on a similar plot. I am happy to report that the book suffers from none of these problems, and I, for one, have no idea how it's going to end. You write your characters so well the reader doesn't want them to leave (By the way, when is Bullseye coming back?).

Elektra is by far the most interesting Marvel character to come along in years. There aren't many anti-heroes in comics, and her conflict of morals with DD is really great.

In conclusion, I'd just like to add that I think that DAREDEVIL is presently the best comic book published, and I hope that you, Klaus and Glynis are working on the book for many years to come.

Chris Downey
no address given

Dear Frank & Klaus,

Luke Skywalker in red tights? Obi-Wan Kenobi as an old blind man? Those were just two of the surprises found in the incredibly disappointing radar sense (or should I say "Force") story, which came off as an unfortunate STAR WARS imitation. Don't despair, however, because the rest of the issue, albeit only a few pages, was splendid! The real magic was found on pages 15 and 16. After a trying period in his life, Foggy is back in true form bubbling with confidence and with his wit intact. It's also good to see the tougher, more serious J. Jonah Jameson, who hasn't been seen in years. The next page gives us Heather in fine form. I, for one, am glad to see such a sadly underrated character being given some attention. Her handling of the loudmouth Rico was priceless. Perhaps the best thing about these two pages is the feeling that the best is yet to come. One wonders where the Matt-Heather relationship will be with his return, and Matt and Foggy defending JJJ and the *Bugle* should be a real treat. If these are handled the way things have been handled in the past, DAREDEVIL will most certainly continue to be the best comic being published today.

Mark Marcus
1716 Frayser Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38127

Dear Frank & Klaus,

Thank you for DAREDEVIL #177. Every man at one time or another has to fight his own "inner devils", and by having Matt Murdock fight his, you made him more human (and also showed us a side of Daredevil that we don't usually see).

Thank you, Frank Miller, distant friend, for transcending the two dimensions of the printed page and creating what the comics industry will never have enough of — a truly meaningful story.

Frank Gruber
1 West Harriet Avenue
Palisades Park, NJ 07650

Dear Frank & Klaus,

"Daredevil... in his strangest adventure ever!" I can find no better way to summarize this story than the way you did on the cover of issue #177. Out of all my Daredevils this is definitely the strangest ... and the best!

Frank, I don't know how you do it, but every issue continues to get better and better. Scripting and artwise I've never seen better from you. Each flashback Matt had this issue, from his memory of being ridiculed by the neighborhood kids, to the somewhat distorted memory of his father in the ring, were handled perfectly. Absolutely nothing disappointed me in this issue.

Forrest Bigham
3901 Harding Road
Nashville, TN 37205

Dear Frank & Klaus,

I have heard that DAREDEVIL #181 will be a double-sized issue and will have a story so dramatic that it will rival X-MEN #137.

Could you give me and my fellow DAREDEVIL readers some tips on what's to come? Will it be, maybe, something like Daredevil regains his sight (not his radar sense, but his real vision)? — or, maybe Daredevil will metamorphose into some all new hero?

That's all I can think of, but answer me this ... WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

William H. Curran III
address witheld upon request

Why spill the beans? In thirty days, you'll KNOW.